

Christmas Benefactors

- St Paul's Abby - 30 Christmas Trees
- Parishes - Toys, stockings, notions, seniors' presents, etc
- Oak Knoll - Nursing home gifts
- Toys R Us -
- Individuals - gifts for a family
- AOH - toys, clothes Seton Hall and Rutgers Law School -Toys
- Alumni - VCR, DVD

Christmas Present

No "Bah, humbug" in NCC

Despite the economy, there was no "Bah, humbug" in NCC for Christmas 2003. Seniors, families and children of all ages were recipients of an incredible amount of generosity from donors who care about the less fortunate. The largesse of individuals, parishes, Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) Seton Hall University and Rutgers University was overwhelming.



Rectory foryer with presents to be distributed

Especially and gratefully remembered were our elderly in the Nursing Home and in Senior Housing. Parties and presents were the norm. Neither was one forgotten nor did anyone "get lost in the crowd."

They are most appreciative and they thank God as well as benefactors for their good fortune.

NCC Social Services and the Pastoral Assistant from St. Rose Parish labeled, bagged, and distributed the presents in time for Santa's delivery.



Helen Abraha, St. Rose secretary/receptionist collecting gifts for the needy



Msgr. Linder flanked by benefactors of Harmony House Early Learning Center.

A Justice Story

On the day he was elected to the papacy, John XXIII overheard a Vatican maintenance man railing against his lot as a family man getting low wages, paying high rent, and having many mouths to feed.

The newly-elected Pontiff investigated, determined the truth of the man's plight, and decided on a 20 to 40 percent raise for all Vatican employees.



Environmental Services employees, Levene Roberson, Pedro Matos, and Rufus Kiel proudly display their service awards.

The appalled Vatican Finance Managers threatened a cut in contributions to charity. Pope John XXIII responded calmly and strongly —“that’s too bad, then we will have to cut them. The raise is simple justice, and justice comes before charity”.

In its 35 year history, NCC has sought justice – fair, impartial, and morally right treatment for all. This must include non-discriminatory practices regarding employment, wages, advancement; equal educational methods and monies; and a non-prejudicial attitude toward the poor.



The Building Trades Specialists program at NCC Workforce Development Center prepares students for the limitless opportunities in the multi-billion dollar construction and building trades industries.



“The racist hatred of today must not be passed on, not even one generation further.”

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Vatican Representative to UN Agencies In Geneva

Day Care to Early Learning

Harmony House Day Care for homeless children has been up-graded to Early Learning Center as of September 2003. The children have already profited with the addition of a structured but a flexible curriculum.



Harmony House Early Learning Center children in outdoor play area.

Children who have spent time moving from shelter to shelter have a different set of needs from those who come from a secure and loving family. Infants and waddlers may adjust quickly but from toddler to pre-school they seem to carry a bit too much baggage. They are aware of and have picked up on the fears and insecurity inherent in a nomadic type of life. Most especially these children can be withdrawn and uncommunicative.

The new program demands the development of the total child with appropriate integration. Communication and behavioral skills are paramount in improving relationships among and between parents, teachers, and children.

US Bishops Clarion Call *The Common Good*

Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility is the October 2003 reflection of the U.S. Bishops on the state of politics and policies in the U.S. Their message is clear —“Politics in this election year and beyond should be about an old idea with new power”—the common good.”



Madge Wilson happily registering seniors for their voting privilege.

NCC has regularly and persistently advocated for the common good. They have strongly encouraged both residents and employees to take voting privileges seriously; to recognize that needed change will not come about with an indifferent citizenry; to cast an informed ballot; and to take responsibility for making their corner of the world a better place – where the common good takes precedence.

The practical and pertinent reflections offered by the Bishops should serve as a wake-up call to politicians as well as to voters.

Jacqueline Andrews

"Helping young people improve the quality of their lives is my chief goal in life." Jackie's family, friends and fellow employees readily attest to her statement.

Before coming to NCC in 1999, Jackie worked for over a decade at Essex County College in the Human Resource Department, Accounts Payable, and as Purchasing Assistant. During this time she earned an AAS in Business from Essex County and a BA in Sociology from Rutgers University. Jackie then chose a career move to NCC where she settled into Gateway-to-Work. (NCC's answer to U.S. Welfare-to-Work)



Jacqueline Andrews

Jackie Andrews is a can-do/will-do personality. Her job of counseling is stressful and draining. However, when help was needed she took over management of the Intake Department where she instituted a more efficient manner of handling paperwork. Additionally, Jackie worked out a smoother procedure for processing billings for Essex County thereby assuring that NCC would receive payment for services in a more timely manner.

As a Job Plus coordinator, Jackie counsels "associates" on the job imbuing them with staying power. She also trains several departments in the intricacies of utilizing a relatively new technology database. And, in keeping with her personality and goal, she finds time to coordinate the Alternative Work Experience Program (AWEP) sites for the Building Trades Program.

On her off hours, Mrs. Andrews directs a non-profit group, Teen Sexual Awareness Workshop (TSAW). Here she counsels young men and women in the area of sex, abstinence, and health issues. As Vice-President of Andrews International Ministries (AIM), Jackie provides outreach services including substance abuse, domestic and teen violence, mental and physical health, and marriage/family counseling.

Singing in a Gospel Group as well as a recording Choir are special joys for Jackie. Singing and studying the Word come naturally since her parents and grandparents lived by the Word as preachers and missionaries.

This remarkable woman was born, raised, and still resides in Newark with her husband and two sons, Willard Jr., age 15 and Stefan, age 9. Jackie's two daughters, 25 and 21 years of age, no longer live at home. Her husband is an office manager for a plumbing/electricity company. He is also a great cook.

With her strong faith in God and in herself, Jackie longs for the day when she and Willard can make AIM their full time ministry.

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